

Career Services Program

June 2007

- *The current employment retention rate for WorkFirst recipients is about 30% lower than other adult employment programs.*
- *Parents who enroll in the Career Services program will receive \$50 per month for up to six months.*
- *Parents who participate in employment retention services will receive additional bonus payments.*

What is the WorkFirst Career Services Program?

Beginning July 1, 2007, the WorkFirst Career Services program will be available to provide some additional support as families transition off welfare. Under this program, a parent who exits WorkFirst and works at least 30 hours per week may be eligible for up to six months of employment retention and advancement services.

The current employment retention rate for WorkFirst recipients is approximately 50%, while other adult employment programs are reporting retention rates above 80%. Reinvesting resources in helping parents remain employed will increase program performance and help more families achieve self-sufficiency.

The goals of the post-TANF program are to:

- Provide wage progression and job retention services to clients who are transitioning off public assistance.
- Provide additional funding for clients who are leaving TANF.

Who is eligible?

Parents who are working 30 or more hours per week may enroll in the WorkFirst Career Services for up to two months following the month they leave WorkFirst cash assistance. Each parent in a two parent family may qualify for their own cash assistance payments and services.

What kinds of services are offered?

Parents will receive cash benefits for up to six months after they exit WorkFirst. Those who enroll in the Career Services program will receive \$50 per month. Additional “bonus” payments will be given to parents who participate in the work advancement and retention activities offered by the Employment Security Department.

	Payment	Bonus
Month 1	\$50	\$150 for enrollment
Month 2	\$50	
Month 3	\$50	
Month 4	\$50	\$100 for in-person contact
Month 5	\$50	
Month 6	\$50	\$100 for in-person contact

Employment retention and advancement services are provided statewide through the WorkSource Centers and Affiliate offices, and include:

- Job retention and wage progression coaching
- Individualized employment plan for wage progression
- Information on job skill training opportunities
- Information on community resources
- Job keeping tips

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For more information about the WorkFirst program, visit
www.workfirst.wa.gov